

Application No. 10/707,543
Docket No. 125470
Amendment dated August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-19 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 10 and 19 were objected to, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 USC §103, and claims 5 and 14 (which depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively) were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended the specification and claims as set forth above. More particularly:

The specification has been amended to correct a clerical error.

Dependent claims 2-5, 13, and 14 have been canceled (without prejudice to Applicants) and the limitations of claims 5 and 14 (and any intervening claims) have been incorporated into their respective parent claims 1 and 12 pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claims 5 and 14 recite allowable subject matter. As such, independent claim 1 and 12 and claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent claims 10 and 19 have each been amended to recite the hafnium level disclosed in paragraph [0020] of the specification, thereby overcoming the objection to these claims.

Applicants believe that the above amendments do not present new matter. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of remaining claims 1, 6-12, and 15-19 are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments.


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Also in the Office Action, the Examiner advised that Applicants' electronically-filed declaration was defective as not being properly executed and lacking the application serial number and filing date. Applicants' undersigned representative hereby informs the Examiner that a substitute declaration addressing these issues was filed on May 11, 2005, and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all issues from the Office Action have been addressed, and respectfully request that this patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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